

# Truman blood flows

BY BURGUNDY RAMSEY  
Staff Reporter

In about an hour, one person could save the lives of three people they probably will never meet. While the people who end up receiving the blood might mean very little in the lives of the donors, each donor helps to renew the lives of those patients.

In only two days, three organizations hope to save as many as 1,500 lives. Blue Key and Cardinal Key are teaming up with American Red Cross on Feb. 1 and 2 for their semi-annual blood drive.

During their fall blood drive, the groups collected 486 units of blood. While the official goal for this blood drive is 400 units (200 each day), both organizations and the Red Cross are unofficially hoping for 250 each day. Each of these pints can save up to three lives by being broken down into plasma, platelets and red blood cells.

Northeast Regional Medical Center is one of 79 hospitals that depend on the Red Cross for their blood supply. Stacy Pruett, an RN at the hospital since 1991, said a

blood transfusion makes patients strong enough to fight their illnesses.

Most of the transfusions are given to patients with cancer or anemia, or to those who recently have had orthopedic surgery or been the victim of a trauma.

Pruett said the screening process the blood goes through eliminates most of the dangers of a blood transfusion.

"The patients benefit so much from it," Pruett said. "There's more pros to it than cons."

Truman and four other colleges in the area sponsor regular blood drives. Matt Gerke, the communications manager for the Missouri-Illinois region, said Truman blood drives are important for the Red Cross.

"The students are always pretty loyal in coming out to donate," Gerke said.

This time of year the Red Cross especially needs donations.

"Between Thanksgiving and Christmas our donations tend to drop some because people are traveling and buying Christmas presents, and they're not really thinking about donat-

ing blood," Gerke said. "The other thing that has gotten us this year, and some other winters, is we've had to cancel a lot of these blood drives over the last couple weeks when we've had storms."

Even if the drive isn't canceled, the turnout can be low if the weather is bad, he said.

The donating process is pretty easy for the donor, usually taking less than an hour. The staff and volunteers help the donor through each step. Every precaution is taken to keep the blood protected, including scanning its barcode so it can be tracked until a patient uses it. After the blood is taken, the donor is finished, but it is just the beginning for the patients in need.

Gerke said the blood is taken to one of five testing facilities throughout the United States. The blood from this area will travel to St. Louis for this process. Within a few days the blood can be taken to one of the 79 hospitals in this Missouri-Illinois region.

While almost all the blood stays within the region in which it is collected, the Red Cross can send blood across the country in the event of a

crisis. Gerke said this is one of the major advantages to donating to the Red Cross.

Workers at the blood drive will include 20 to 25 staff members from the Red Cross, volunteers from Blue Key and Cardinal Key and members of the community.

Juniors Stephanie Bergt and Maddie Pollard from Cardinal Key, along with junior Seth Donaldson from Blue Key, are coordinating the blood drive, and are responsible for most of the advertising done on campus. The first week of fall semester, they met with the Red Cross to begin planning and got some general ideas for their fall and spring blood drives. Right now, all three are working hard to get people to sign up.

The biggest draw is by sign up tables, set up the week before the drive. Pollard encourages those wanting to donate to sign up ahead of time at these tables or online. By having an appointment time, donors don't have to wait as long.

The Missouri-Illinois region averages approximately 15 blood drives each day. Gerke said blood only has a shelf life of 42 days.

## What to do before donating blood



# Female, Brunette...

New website offers flirtation platform for secret admirers

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Staff Reporter

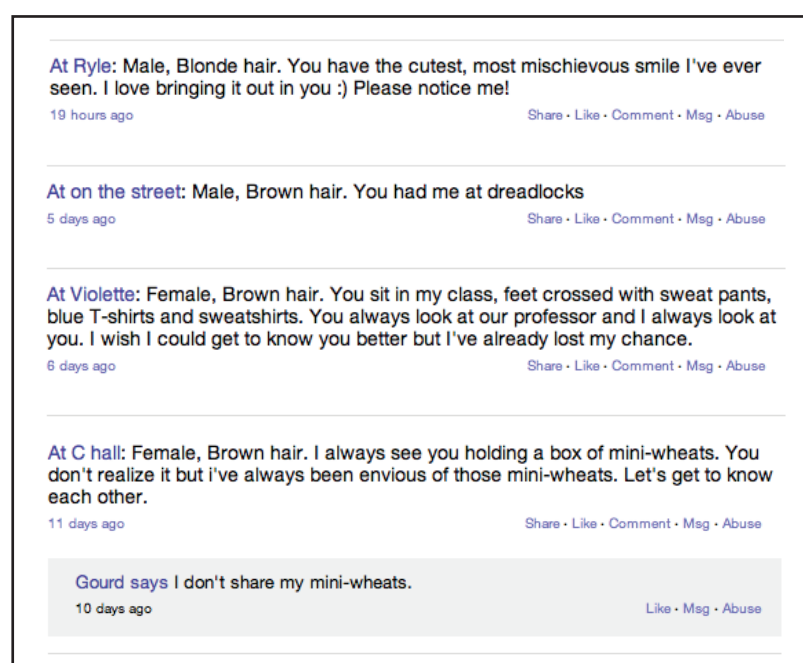
Embarrassing love letters are no longer needed for romancing. Flirtation in the 21st century, and at Truman, is online, and it's LikeALittle.com.

The website, founded in 2010 by Stanford student Evan Reas, describes itself as a "flirting facilitator platform." Users can post flirtatious comments anonymously about fellow students they like, resulting in posts at Truman such as "At Ryle: Female, Blonde. I am looking at you in a study room. You are the light of my life and you don't even notice. Notice me. I love you."

"It's just a website where if you see somebody that you like, you can write a little post," said junior Ashley Wolf, one of the LikeALittle moderators at Truman. "It's basically just a fun way to flirt."

Sophomore Caitlyn Dum brought LikeALittle to Truman. She stumbled upon the website on a friend's Facebook post and instantly was drawn to it. She received permission from the original founders to create a Truman chapter, and it went online after Winter Break.

Sophomore George Allan began using LikeALittle when a friend recommended it to him. At first he was skeptical, but after he began posting, he saw the poten-



tial of LikeALittle to become one of his favorite time-wasting hobbies, along with Facebook.

"I really like the fact that you can be somewhat romantic without being so out there and upfront," Allan said. "I think it's a really classy and fun site."

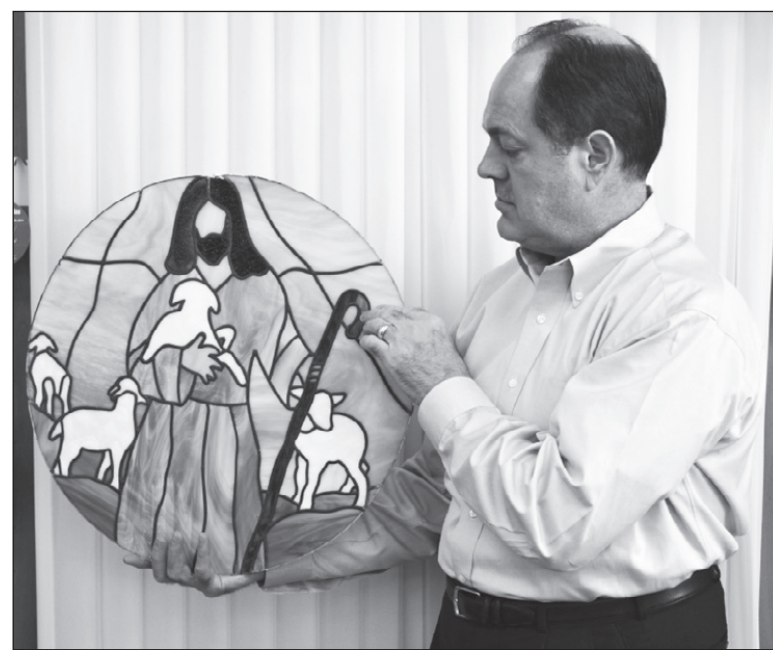
Allan said he used to be a guy who passed love notes to girls he liked. Now, with LikeALittle, he said the process of flirting is much less awkward. However, he said if he wanted to seriously show his interest, he would communicate with the person face-to-face. He said posts on a website cannot communicate real feelings.

Although it's fun posting playful comments online, some peo-

ple find LikeALittle somewhat creepy, Wolf said. While the users' anonymity can be beneficial, it also can become a concern. LikeALittle does not allow comments that are racist, harassing, sexually-explicit or contain swear words. The biggest rule is real names are never used. There are four site moderators at Truman who oversee posts. The moderators check the site several times a day to make sure all inappropriate posts are deleted, Wolf said.

As long as all the rules are abided, LikeALittle is a great way to express feelings and see what goes on in the minds of secret admirers, Dum said. Even though LikeALittle might not become as big as Facebook, it still can be phenomenal, Dum said.

"One person said that it's another way for students to not be social," she said. "I can understand that, but at the same time, it's just like they are being more social by saying something on a website than not saying it at all to anyone."



Laura Tyler/Index

Burt Beard of Beard's Decorating Center shows a piece that will soon go for sale. Beard said he works more on stained glass during the winter months because other business is slow.

**GLASS** Stained glass works from Beard's Decorating Center commemorate loved ones

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more," Beard said. "We have an art gallery, we have a glazing crew, and we do just a lot more than just paint."

He said when they're not installing carpet, they're selling paint. When they're not selling paint, they're making stained glass. It's how they've survived for the past 95 years, he said.

Much of what they do is glazing — installing windows. They currently are installing the east side of Pershing Building's windows, having worked with the University in the past. They installed all the Pickler Memorial Library windows.

Sometimes the work they do leads to other jobs, such as glazing for Kirksville City Hall when they moved to their new facility at 201 S. Franklin, the old Kirksville Post Office. The City asked them to imitate the Kirksville city logo in stained glass.

Some projects have much more touching histories. One was in the memory of a

lady who loved rose gardening, Beard said. "Her five children and the church's committee gave him a general concept of what they wanted — a window with praying hands and roses to represent each of her children."

"So I'm drawing it up — and using up my many bottles of white out — and I couldn't quite get the five roses to flow," Beard said. "And so, I'm like, I'm going to put a sun in there, and so I put a sun and a sun's rays."

He had his design: Lining the top were two roses, a sun and three more roses, with female praying hands in the center. When he presented it to the committee, some members began to cry. They explained that the lady had two children, then a stillborn child and three children after that.

"Now, I don't know what the deal was, but something just told me to put the sun there," Beard said. "Now, call it what you want, but I mean, when I tell the story, I just get goosepimples."

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